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Law and Politics in the Middle Ages. By EDWARD JENKS. New York: Henry Holt & Company. 1898. 8vo. pp. xiii-352.

THE field which Mr. Jenks attempts to cover is one which requires broad generalization and a certain amount of conjecture, to give a basis for classification of data and to fill in the gaps where established facts are wanting. In so far as he goes into the theory of the origin of the political institutions of western Europe he is of the Germanist school of thought. He gives little weight to claims of the Romanist. His method is largely that of the evolutionist, tracing the relations of political forms and survivals, linking the past with the present. His investigations lead him to the conclusion that the mediæval law was a product of the social and economic relations of men living together in the family, the clan, the village community, or other social groups; the laws, such as the *Leges Barbarorum*, the Anglo-Saxon Doms, etc., which are used by him as "sources" are regarded as rules of action, or of social control established in the community by men dealing with each other in these several relations; those rules were discovered and announced by the judge instead of being formulated by the lawgiver. It is conceived that by the establishment of the feudal system the politically organized people became settled and that the law thereafter took on a territorial as well as a social aspect. To the customary or local law thus established was added the Law Merchant and certain strains of Canon Law as society became more settled in its habits and the economic and social relations broadened. As an evolutionary study of political institutions and of the social conditions out of which the law has risen, this work may be said to be well in line with the investigations which are being carried on by other scholars of today in other departments of investigation. It occupies a place which will contribute to the rounding out of investigations in political and social science.

F. A. C.

Des origines et de l'état social de la nation française. Par H. Soulier. Paris: V. Giard et E. Brière, 1898. 8vo. pp. 520.

THIS essay may be called a study in social economy; it consists in an examination of the underlying elements in the social structure of the French state, both from the point of view of their origin and history, and from the point of view of present conditions. The essay